
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to present the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) second annual Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 1999. I believe that you will find the report to be informative and one that fully discloses the financial position of FEMA. As Chief Financial Officer, I am fully aware of my stewardship responsibilities and the importance of guaranteeing full accountability for the funds entrusted to FEMA by Congress and the public. Therefore, I will continue to ensure that we maintain accountability and integrity in all of our financial and accounting processes.

For the second consecutive year, we prepared and received an unqualified opinion on our agency-wide financial statements for FY 1999. The attainment of an unqualified opinion on our financial statements is important to us because it validates our efforts to ensure that the Agency's financial and management information systems produce timely, accurate, and useful information.

During the year, we completed the development of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. The EMPG was established to streamline the manner in which FEMA provides financial assistance to our state partners. It consolidates funding for state emergency management programs, provides flexibility to states for targeting resources to priorities, and requires performance measurements to ensure accountability.

As we continue to make improvements in the way our financial system and processes operate and in the way management and internal controls are structured at FEMA, we will also strive to offer a wide range of developmental opportunities to strengthen employee skills and to broaden experience in financial management. We recognize that our future success depends upon a highly qualified financial workforce. In FY 2000, our top priorities are to implement the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), improve the management of receivables, and to use electronic commerce to improve financial management.

FEMA's Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 1999 should be a useful tool that effectively highlights how FEMA manages its financial resources as well as its performance in major program activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary D. Johnson".

Gary D. Johnson